

DOCKET NO.: THOM-0012
Application No.: 09/646,032
Office Action Dated: October 23, 2003

PATENT

Amendments to the Drawings

None.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18-41 are pending in the application. Claims 21, 22, and 30-41 are allowed. Claims 19, 20, and 23-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (*i.e.*, claim 18), but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (Office action at ¶ 6).

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.K. patent application GB 2233334A (“Rumsby”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Generally, Rumsby discloses surface treatment of polymer materials. More particularly, Rumsby discloses several ways to modify the structure of a polymer film using UV radiation. The Examiner asserts that Rumsby discloses “a field emission cathode comprising a polymer material forming a field emission surface (Office action at ¶ 5, citing Rumsby at p.7, ¶ 2). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s assertion.

Applicant respectfully submits that Rumsby discloses a cathode formed by a metal layer on a roughened polymer surface (*see* Rumsby at p.7, ¶ 2). The polymer material, following its laser etching, provides a required shape. Thus, in contradistinction to the invention of Applicant’s claim 18, Rumsby’s *polymer* does not form the *surface* from which field emission takes place. Rather, the surface from which field emission takes place is formed by the metal layer placed on it.

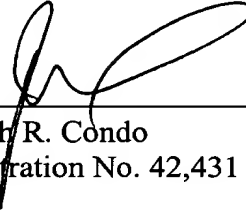
By contrast, Applicant’s claim 18 recites a field emission cathode comprising a *polymer* material forming a field emission surface. Applicant respectfully submits that Rumsby does not teach or suggest a polymer material forming a field emission surface as claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant’s claim 18 also patentably distinguishes over Rumsby.

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application, and a Notice of Allowance for claims 18-41.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph R. Condo', is written over a horizontal line.

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